

The fate of the tariff bill in the house is one of the uncertainties of the time. The members of congress do not know much about it, and those who do know something can't agree.

The president of the United States gave a seven hundred dollar dinner Saturday night to the Marquis de Lorne. There were fourteen courses and the guests sat for two hours. The president is proving himself to be a princely entertainer.

There is a probability that Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson, formerly of this state, will not be elected bishop of the diocese of New Orleans. The objection to him is that he is too liberal and that his rough and tumble style of speaking and acting do not fit him for a bishopric. Dr. Thompson is a great power as a pulpit orator, and the vast amount of missionary work he has done and his acknowledged ability, enable him to the best gift the church has to bestow.

The Philadelphia Times Almanac for 1883, besides giving full returns of the state elections, furnishes an extended history of the "Independent republican revolt" in Pennsylvania, last year, as shown by the numerous calls for conventions, statements of principles, letters of leading politicians and some of the notable speeches of the several candidates. It has also very many valuable statistical tables, useful both to the political student and in every day life. It is neatly printed, contains 112 pages and is sold for fifteen cents a copy.

The report that Senator Windom would withdraw from the senatorial contest in Minnesota, is pronounced false by him. In an interview on Saturday, he said, "I came here at the earnest solicitation of my friends to consult about the election of a United States senator and it is my purpose to remain until a senator shall have been elected. The issue was distinctly made at the last session and a decided majority of the Republicans in the present legislature. I have at no different times received the votes of more than a majority of the entire legislature. Under these circumstances I have reason to expect an election and have no intention to retire from the contest so long as the friends, who placed me in nomination, desire me to remain as their candidate. My supporters represent the organization of the republican party and so long as they desire to maintain its integrity, I shall not desert them." But the outlook is not very flattering for Senator Windom, a fact which will be regretted by every sincere and unselfish republican in the country.

There are many points against Scheller, charged with burning the Newhall house. While there is no direct proof, there is strong circumstantial evidence against him. He cannot show that he was not in the hotel about the time the fire broke out. His insurance was large—\$5,000—when a quarter of that amount would cover all the liquor and other stock on hand. There was in the billiard room \$400 or \$500 worth of ivory billiard and pool balls. None of these were found in the ruins, as they should have been, until last Friday, when two pool balls were upturned by some curious outsider, in a spot that had been carefully gone over at the time of the search for the remains of the victims. It is held by the police that these two balls were purposely placed there, after the official examination of the debris, with a view of encouraging the belief that the whole lot had been there and destroyed. There are many other points against him which convince the public that he had a hand in setting fire to the hotel.

The thirty-third annual report of the Wisconsin institution for the education of the blind, for the fiscal year ending September 30th 1882, has been issued. This is made by Mrs. Sarah C. Little, superintendent, and shows that during the period covered by the report, 82 persons—41 girls and 38 boys—have been under instruction. Speaking of the industrial department, the report says: "Caning chair seats has been continued as the best mode of giving employment and manual training to those who are not yet prepared to undertake carpet weaving. In the weaving room an abundant supply of custom work is still offered. Early last March all that could be done before the close of the term in June was engaged, and when the present term opened, enough work was on hand to occupy all the looms until Christmas. It is encouraging that customers are willing to wait for our rather slow weavers, because their work is preferred as being of better quality than that usually done elsewhere. At the recent state fair at Fond du Lac, a carpet woven in our shop, by a totally blind young woman, took the first premium. There were twelve competitors, and this carpet was regularly entered by number, and had no mark that showed where it was woven. The girls have continued the practice of sewing, knitting and various kinds of fancy work."

It will be three years next June since the tenth census was taken, and yet the reports in book form are not ready for the public, and there is no telling when they will be. There are a great many evil reports coming from the census office. Since General Walker, resigned, the work of compiling the statistics has not only been retarded, but the general business in the office has been scandalously managed. There is a lack of money in the office, the appropriation falling short two or three hundred thousand

dollars. Congress has not made good the deficiency, and, in fact, has no right to make the extra appropriation until it sees whether the money will be judiciously used by the superintendent of the census bureau. Matters generally are in such a bad shape about the bureau, that public confidence is becoming terribly shaken in the accuracy of the reports which will be hereafter furnished from that office. If congress has any doubt as to the capability of the present superintendent, or if there are suspicions that the money has been misapplied and wasted, some such man as Robert P. Porter, should be given charge of the office. Crooked things would then be made straight, and the country would soon have the census reports in good shape.

Our Winter Schools.

One of the first duties on farms where there are children of school age, is to see to it that all have an opportunity to attend, and, if possible, begin with the first day of the term. It has been growing fashionable within the past few years to arrange the school terms and classes with a view to a continuous attendance of all the scholars of the district through the entire school year. This is a city custom, and may work well in cities and large manufacturing towns and villages. The older people want their vacations during the heated term, and so not only the schools, but the churches, have their doors closed from June to September, while the people are away at the seaside or in the mountains.

In many places the schools are run "machine fashion," as we saw the shoes made at the New England Institute Fair last year. The scholars, like unfinished shoes, are passed along, step by step, from one teacher or one room to another, each being subjected to precisely the same influences, the same pressure, the same mold, as it were, just as if students could be turned out like machine made goods by the case, bale or gross. Now, it seems to us, that the aim of the parent and the teacher should be to so train children that they will grow up and become useful citizens, useful to themselves and useful to others, each according to his ability. Formerly, the long winter term beginning just after Thanksgiving, was the principal term of the year. The best teachers were hired, and every scholar of suitable age was expected to attend, and use the time to the very best advantage. The summer school had more of the primary character, and was made up of children who were too young to be of much use in the shop or in the field.

We have a good deal of respect for the memory of the old winter school in the country school house, and we fear that the drifting towards the city system and methods has sometimes been a damage to the country farm boy. We fear, too, that in the general eagerness to crowd all the pupils through the different grades, including the high school and the college—for our system points directly that way—we are hurrying over and neglecting some of the most important requisites to a good common school education. We are reminded of this almost daily as we mingle with children, as well as with those who have outgrown their school days. Too much time is spent at school in the endeavor to commit to memory the height of the mountains and the length of the rivers of the world, and to remember the population of cities, which few of the scholars will ever see; too much in working out difficult arithmetical puzzles, which work can be of no possible practical use, and, unless there has been a great change, too much in "parsing" and analyzing sentences by rule. At the same time, there is far too little attention given to forming habits of correct speaking, plain, straightforward, legible writing. It is probably safe to say that not more than one out of fifty of the letters and postal cards which go through our mails, would bear the test of a printer's proof reading. We should not be surprised if one in five hundred would come nearer the facts—*New England Farmer*.

Disgusting Remedies.

Fillet of a fenny snake.
In the caldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hellish boil and bubble.
—Macbeth, Act IV., Scene I.

Naught but an intimate knowledge of all the diabolical arts and wiles of the characters he intended to depict could have rendered the great dramatist so correct in his portrayal of the inhabitants of the lonely glen where the opening scenes disclose them engaged in their dread incantations, during which the second hag recites the above quoted lines as descriptive of the contents of the caldron which was to form the charm and powerful troubles. Dreadful as were the contents of our modern apothecary shops, the statement of which fact leads us at once to the subject of this sketch, as indicated in the heading, "Disgusting Remedies."

"Oh, yes, we use cockroaches to some extent, but in the old country they are employed as a remedial agent much more frequently," said a well-known druggist in response to the queries of an *Englewood* representative, who had called on him for information.

"What made you ask the question?" asked the apothecary.

In reply the newspaper man showed him a statement concerning a Louisiana physician, who wrote to a well-known Eastern medical journal asking it for information respecting the curative qualities of a tea made from fat female cockroaches. In the letter he copied the following formula of a preparation often used by the old women nurses of the South:

"One dozen female cockroaches put into a pint of boiling water after being bruised. Let stand a couple of hours, then strain well; add two teaspoonfuls of brandy and one ounce of crushed sugar; stir till thoroughly dissolved. Two teaspoonfuls every hour."

"Yes," continued the drug man, as he finished reading this seemingly disgusting prescription. "As I said before, they are used to some extent. Their use was discontinued among the Russian peasantry, and after that they were taken up by the medical men of Germany. They are expected to act as a diuretic, and as a cure for kidney disease."

The visitor expressed his disgust both by word and gesture, which movement led the druggist to remark that cock

roaches were mild and pleasant when compared with other medical remedies produced at the expense of insect life.

"What do you think," said he, "of head-lice, body-lice, bed-bugs, honey-bees and as many other insects being called upon to contribute their mite toward the advancement of medical science?"

With the mention of each name a shudder passed through the frame of the listener, and involuntarily shut his mouth and placed his hand on his stomach.

"Yes," resumed the apothecary, in answer to his own question, "the medical fraternity use all these insects."

Thereupon he removed a pharmacopoeia from the book-case, and opening it, began to read. In the German pharmacopoeia was found "Mumi Egyptiana, or Egyptian mummy," quoted at four marks and sixty pfennigs per kilogram. There was the dried ink from the cuttle-fish, and "spiritus formicorum," which is nothing more nor less than common ants dried and prepared; beet-gall, musk from the musk-deer, and castor from the beaver.

"Speaking of nasty medicines," interrupted the partner of the establishment, "how do you like this?" and as he spoke he thrust a bottle under the reporter's nose, the scent from which would have stopped the cathedral clock, it was so thick. "Bah!" ejaculated the latter as he pushed it aside, "what is that stuff?"

"That's pepsin," said the druggist. "The mucous membrane that lines the inner coating of a hog's stomach is scraped off and dried and prepared, and called pepsin. It aids the digestion," he continued, laughing heartily at the visitor, who still sniffed the air suspiciously.

"Pepsin, however, is a standard remedy the country over, and is accepted as being of efficacy by all medical creeds."

"But to resume. There is the slime taken from the tongue of a new-born filly; the liver and heart of a fox; the pungent fluid that is extracted from a polecat." "What's that?" "Why, of course, you kill the polecat first—the contents of a small-pox pustule; a piece of the hide and hair from the gnuazout, or Brazilian stag, wood-ants, snakes, or snake-poison; the lacerta agilis, or green lizard; the poison extracted from a toad by electric appliances, and anthracic coal. All these things are used by physicians."

"The medical profession of to-day are just contrivances to the doctors of thirty years ago. Then the first thing that was done to a sick man he was bled. The next thing, if he did not get better, was to repeat the performance. Now they give a patient medicine to make more blood. Thirty years hence, I suppose, they will be just as diverse from us as we are from those of former years."—*Cincinnati Enquirer*.

The *Mobile Register* takes great delight in telling this little story at the expense of Massachusetts. A very enjoyable concert was given in a small town in that State recently. Among the performers was a popular tenor singer, who was announced by the programme as prepared to perform, among other selections, an "Aria, 'Sound the Alarm,' by Handel." This he sang with strong effect, and was horrified the next day to perceive in the local paper the statement that he had "sung, with great taste and expression, a fine song by Handel, entitled 'Maria, Sound the Alarm.'"

The Economic Society is an exclusive religious order in Pennsylvania. The founder was George Rapp, who came from Wurtemberg, in 1803, accompanied by 300 Germans. They settled in Potter County, and began to prosper immediately. The government by Rapp was autocratic, and he not only kept the profits of the community in trust, but destroyed all the accounts when he died, in 1845. It was believed that the trust fund amounted to half a million dollars. It was then placed in the hands of trustees, and several members are now suing for a division. *Pittsburgh Record*.

New Uses for Leather.

Until quite recently all decorative leather was imported, and although embossed leather has been produced in America, none of the painted leather which is now in such fashionable demand was manufactured in the country. More than twelve years ago, however, even before the Centennial had awakened an interest in the marvelous achievements of foreign leather-workers, an attempt at its manufacture had been made in New York City, and so far the painted leather, as it is called, "illuminated leather," is in the hands of one firm. The method of communicating color to the material is a trade secret; it holds the appearance of having been dyed, although oil paints only are used for the purpose. The effect is not in the least as if the colors were merely laid on, for the entire thickness of the leather appears permeated with color. This result has only been obtained after years of study and experiment, and the manufacturer is an Englishman by birth. In every case a background of gold or silver is given to the surface of the leather, and the design is then tooled in colors, according to the taste of the artists. Most of the designs selected are in imitation of the antique, a very few being original, and a preference now is given to those of Moorish origin, although Flemish designs play an almost equally important part.

The illuminated leather manufactured in New York is acknowledged by competent judges to excel that which is imported from France or Belgium, for the reason that it does not crack or show signs of wear, and, in fact, resembles the genuine antique in that the older it grows the better it looks. Moreover it is far more flexible than French leather, and this makes it invaluable as covering for furniture. The demand for this decorative leather is steadily increasing, and it is found of such practical value that in the most stylish modern houses it is fast taking the place of other materials for ceiling and wall decoration. Some houses in the city are decorated throughout with it; others have wall and ceiling decorated in leather for dining-room and library. The expense of such ornamentation varies, but is never light, for, although it can be obtained at the rate of fifty cents a foot, the best qualities cost over \$3 a yard. For ceiling decoration it is invariably supplied in one piece, and cross-bars of decorative work are used in connection with it, serving to keep it in position, so that if necessary the entire ceiling decoration can be removed without any article of furniture. Dark leather is, as a rule, preferred for the decoration

of dwelling-rooms and lighter shades for bedrooms. Illuminated leather has much to recommend it for ceiling decoration from the fact that it catches the rays of light and presents a varied appearance from hour to hour. Three or four years ago almost all the painted leather in demand came from Italy or France. Today there is every probability of American leather being exported to European countries. The leather must in demand for decorative purposes

is the ordinary ox hide; sheepskin is too thin, and morocco is only used for embossing or fancy purposes. Goat skin is occasionally called for, but not often. Formerly French hides were the only ones considered suitable for the purpose of painting, but American hides are very frequently used. The cost of decoration by this material varies, as before stated; one room in a mansion in Philadelphia was decorated in leather, that is ceiling, walls and chairs were covered with this material, for the sum of \$1,300, while the enormous sum of \$8,000 has been paid for the decoration of a single room in antique leathers. For special orders Levant or Turkey leather is selected, but this is not a usual thing. Every year now sees some improvement in the art. It has been proved that the tiles can be reproduced in leather so exactly that only a keen observer can detect the material of which they are made, and it is becoming a fashion to frame such tiles as ornaments for mantels or brackets. Imported leather in colored designs are enormously expensive if they are really genuine antiques. For example, an antique wall-hanging, twelve yards wide and two in width is valued at over \$10,000, and it is estimated that it would require fully ten years' work to reproduce it by the modern method.

Such a hanging, if used for a dressing or library wall, would be accompanied by a deep wainscoting of dark wood, malagasy probably, and have a ceiling of the same wood richly carved. Oak also a suitable accompaniment for leather, and colonized cherry is constantly used in combination with it. The skill attained by the modern worker in leather is so great that when antique specimens are reproduced it is almost impossible to detect which is the original, except in the brightness in the modern coloring. French artists have long excelled in this branch of art, but they fail to produce the same complete accuracy of detail as the American manufacturer.

Many of the fashionable chairs to-day are covered in what is known as Spanish hide, which, however, unless really antique, comes either from France, Italy or Belgium, and is manufactured in imitation of the Moorish designs which were introduced into Spain in the thirteenth century. From Spain the art of leather-working traveled to the Netherlands during the occupation of the country by the Spaniards, and so in Flemish specimens we find constant trace of the Moorish influence in which they really originated. These Flemish designs are usually florid and highly colored; those which are more purely Moorish are geometrical, and lower toned in color. The most expensive of all leather is that imported in the rough from Cordova; it is much used for screens and panels, and Flemish designs wrought upon it, are especially effective. In early days artists whose fame was made did not disdain to paint upon this material, and it entered largely into the decoration of palaces and large buildings at the time of the earlier renaissance. Although it has played the part of all fashions and been from time to time almost lost sight of by the general public, it is safe to affirm that there never has been a time when the lovers of the beautiful have not sought to express ideas in this material. It is extremely durable, and has more to recommend it for the purchaser than for the man whose bread and butter depends upon selling it, for the reason that a house once fitted up with it may be considered as needing a little restoration. The same is true, of course, of chairs—and the durability of leather-covered furniture is one of its greatest recommendations. Trimmings for leather chairs, whether the material is plain, embossed, or painted, vary according to taste and the dictates of fashion. Just now oak, malagasy, and colonized cherry are most in demand. Workmen for embossing leather must necessarily be skilled artisans. As a rule they are found among English or Americans, although some Germans are employed in the business. The latter are good at imitation but slow to originate, and while they follow directions with great accuracy, they seldom aspire to anything like originality.—*N. Y. Times*.

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-Black- Cashmere-

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